



Texas IB Schools



Newsletter

Winter 2011-2012

Vol. 6, Issue 1

Season's Greetings!!! The weather outside is (not quite) frightful, but the rain is so delightful!! We know everyone is anxiously awaiting the holiday break. It has been one busy year, and we could all use some downtime. Below you will find a recap of this fall's events, as well as a hint of what to expect for 2012. We are pleased to be partnering with Rice University once again to host an exciting February Roundtable in Houston. The Coordinators Meeting and Roundtable will take place on Friday, February 24 and Saturday, February 25. Also, our scholarship and grant applications, as well as information and registration for our summer workshops, will be posted on the website in January. Please save the date for the MYP & PYP workshops in Austin—July 22-25 & July 25-28.

Happy Holidays and all the best for the new year!

Courtney Smith & Karen Phillips
TIBS Associate Executive Director TIBS Executive Director

Fall Events

~Fall Roundtable Report~—The Coordinator Meeting on Friday, October 7, had a full agenda followed by some very productive breakout sessions. Once again, Daniel Paccione from Education First (EF) joined us to talk about the 2012 service learning tours. We also had two guests from IBA—Liz Baynard (Global Research Manager) and Natasha Deflorian (IBCC Associate Manager). IB Source was also present as an 'exhibitor', as well as EF and Pamoja Education. In addition to our guests, we had plenty of TIBS business to discuss. Dan McLendon and Cecilia Boswell gave us a statistical study update, Karen & Courtney recapped our busy summer (the Conference of the Americas in San Antonio and our Austin PYP/MYP workshops), and we mentioned some upcoming conferences and workshops. All in all, it was a long and busy day, but definitely worthwhile!

The Roundtable on Saturday had great reviews from all who attended. We offered 4 sessions and had a total of 77 people in attendance. The PYP *Integrating the Arts* session was taught by Leah Delafield from

Meridian School in Georgetown. The MYP *Standards-based grading* session was led by Mary Brinkman and Teresa Milliger from Grisham Middle School. The MYP *Unpacking the Unit Planner and Curriculum Mapping* session was led by Jennifer Barnett, also from Grisham Middle School. The DP session was led by Natasha Deflorian and focused on the IB Career-related certificate. As always, if you have any suggestions for future Roundtable topics, send them our way! Thank you to our wonderful guests, exhibitors, presenters, and participants!!!

~Achieving Authentic Connections within the PYP—TIBS would like to thank The Woodlands Preparatory School for hosting this event and for Linda Johnson for providing the following report:

On Saturday, October 22nd, The Woodlands Preparatory School hosted ten schools across the state of Texas in our “Achieving Authentic Connections within the PYP” workshop funded in part from a grant from Texas IB Schools. This workshop offered an opportunity for teachers and administrators to share and model their ideas and best practices used within their buildings, giving them fresh perspectives in meeting the standards set in IB standard C. Participants broke into grade level/specialist/administrator groups in order to share effective working documents and making connections in the curriculum within each unit of inquiry. The Woodlands Preparatory School’s National Honor Society provided the volunteers for check in. Though 75 people originally RSVP’d for this event, only 53 participants actually participated on the day of the event. In addition to returning to their schools with copies of best practice ideas, teachers were able to discuss other ideas not shared in the printed handout. A follow-up email containing a color PDF copy of the packet was sent to the participating PYP coordinators to distribute with the rest of their staff. Following the event, participants were asked to fill out a brief evaluation of their experience. The following is a brief synopsis of the evaluations:

- By and large a positive experience and participants received what they expected from the day. They liked the site, felt pleased to have time to talk to other teachers and would appreciate something similar to this one to two times each year – more local roundtables.
- Suggestions included that they would have liked to have a group discussion with a specified topic as it was a little too flexible and “open-ended” for them. Perhaps the next time, a guest speaker could be slated for the morning and the afternoon and would consist of the designated grade-level breakout sessions. Massy Ranch would like to host a similar round table in the future.

Overall, with 53 participants and 10 schools, it is estimated that approximately 3000 students were positively impacted with the strategies shared at this round table workshop.

~Marketing and Communications Retreat—Karen Phillips participated in a planning session in Bethesda on November 30 aimed at developing a

comprehensive marketing strategy for all professional development workshops, including the provider workshops, starting in 2012. IBA has contracted with the firm Kinetics to create the plan. Now in the research stage of developing this strategy, Kinetics convened the group in Bethesda for a full day's retreat to review strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for professional development in the region.

~TAGT Professional Development Conference—As in past years, TIBS sponsored a booth at the annual TAGT Professional Development Conference held at the Austin Convention Center from November 30-December 2. Our presence at state conferences continues to be an effective way to connect with current IB schools and network with educators from all over the state. We value our relationship with TAGT and appreciate the support the group has shown for our IB programs.

~Commissioner's Advisory Council (CAC)—Karen Phillips participated in a presentation by the CAC at TAGT on Dec.1. The session provided an update concerning the upcoming standards for evaluation of gifted services in Texas.

~Global Language Convention—Join CASIE for the Global Language Convention, hosted in cooperation with International Baccalaureate, on April 13-15, 2012 at the Atlanta International School, Atlanta, GA, USA. The conference theme is "Language and Culture: How they form and inform identity" Keynote speakers include best-selling *NurtureShock* author Po Bronson, famed linguist John Rassias and cross-cultural communication expert Bernadette van Houten. Interactive sessions and presentations dealing with a broad range of topics will be presented, including model immersion language lessons. Conference attendees include teachers, administrators and parents interested in languages in K-16 schools and beyond in public, private, charter and international schools across the world.

If you are interested in sending a group of teachers and joining the Circle of Educators, contact jennifer.long@casieonline.org

Early Bird Registration is available until February 1, 2012

www.casieonline.org/events/glc

Scholarships available <http://casieonline.org/programs/scholarship-application>

~Scholarship Applications—The TIBS DP Scholarship and Innovative Teaching/Training Grant applications will be available on the website in January. Thanks to the generosity of **IB Source**, TIBS will be giving out an additional scholarship this year. Seven \$1,000 scholarships and six \$1,000 grants will be awarded. In addition, the TIBS Board voted in October to offer 6 additional grants designated for the 'local roundtables' that have been offered in the past by previous grant winners. An example of a winner of this grant is the *North Texas DP Roundtable* that has been offered by HEB ISD the past 3 years, as well as the *Achieving*

Authentic Connections with the PYP grant that is mentioned earlier in this newsletter. These 6 grants will each be worth \$1,000, and we will award 2 per IB program (2 for DP, 2 for MYP, and 2 for PYP). All of the scholarship and grant applications are due by 5:00pm on Friday, March 2, 2012. Dr. Henry Speck has informed us that the St. Hugh's Oxford Summer Programme will not be offered in 2012 so those scholarships are no longer in effect.

~2012 IB Conference of the Americas (ARC)—Karen Phillips has been named to serve on the local arrangements committee for the 2012 ARC. The first meeting of the committee will take place in Mexico City on January 24. Registration for the conference to be held in the Riviera Maya, Mexico, July 12-15, is now open. This will be the first conference of the Americas held in Latin America since the creation of the IB Americas in 2009.

~Presentations and meetings—TIBS remains active in spreading the message of the IB as well as staying involved in events that play a role in shaping its future. The following is a list of upcoming presentations and meetings that will impact the IB in Texas:

- ARC Local Arrangements Committee Meeting—Mexico City (January 24)
- IBA Regional Associations Meeting—Bethesda, MD (March 2 & 3)
- Spring Coordinators Meeting & Roundtable—Houston, Rice University (February 24-25)
- Global Language Convention—Atlanta, GA (April 13-15)
- IB World Student Conference—Segovia, Spain (July 2-6)
- IB World Student Conference—British Columbia, Canada (July 23-27)
- IB Conference of the Americas—Riviera Maya, Mexico (July 12-15)
- TIBS PYP/MYP Workshops—Austin (July 22-25 & 25-28)



TIBS Spotlight Section



- ✓ **Recently authorized schools**—Congratulations to our newly authorized schools in Texas!!! We are so proud of all of your hard work!! (If you are not on this list and have been authorized, please contact the TIBS office and let us know.)

- W.B. Ray High School (MYP)—Corpus Christi

TIBS Members Attend North Texas Service Learning Institute

Nine representatives from TIBS attended the North Texas Service Learning Institute on November 11 at Tarrant County College in Ft. Worth. The event was hosted by the DFW Service Learning Intercollegiate Council and focused on how to develop quality partnerships through service learning. The Council fosters a regional collaboration of institutions of higher education committed to developing civic engagement and service learning partnerships among directors, coordinators, faculty and community agencies in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. TIBS is the first educational group outside of the

higher education sector to be invited to participate. In attendance were:



Back Row, Left to Right: Linda Buie, Jacque Conroe, Shehnaz Wadhwania, Jennifer Silva, Kathy Witcher, Stephanie Stuart, Jared Jones, Stacy Stoyanoff
Front Row, Left to Right: Margaret Davis, Beth Hughes, Janice Swarts, Karen Phillips

Collin County Charter School Breaks Ground for Building

The Imagine International Academy of North Texas, a public tuition free charter school scheduled to open in the fall of 2012 in McKinney, held a groundbreaking ceremony on November 16, 2011, to mark the commencement of construction for the school's permanent home. Operated by Imagine Schools, the Academy plans to serve approximately 950 students in grades K-9 for the 2012-2013 school year and will pursue authorization to offer a rigorous college preparatory curriculum based on the International Baccalaureate (IB) educational framework. In attendance were State Representative Ken Paxton, Collin County Commissioner Joe Jaynes, McKinney Mayor Brian Loughmiller, Imagine Schools Founder and CEO Dennis Bakke, Texas Charter Schools Association Vice President Denise Pierce, and Texas IB Schools Executive Director Karen Phillips. Mrs. Margaret J. Davis will lead the Academy as its School Director, beginning in January 2012. Mrs. Davis was previously Director of International Baccalaureate and Gifted/Talented Programming at Longview ISD.

Temple ISD Names Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

Dr. Jason Bullock was approved as the new Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction for Temple ISD at the meeting of the Temple ISD Board of Trustees on December 12. Dr. Bullock is currently the principal at Temple High School, an IB World School. In attendance was TIBS Executive Director Karen Phillips.

If you have exciting news to spotlight about your IB programs and people, please send information to Karen Phillips at tibs.karen@gmail.com or Courtney Smith at tibs.courtney@gmail.com.

Upcoming TIBS Activities (Mark your calendars!!)

February 24, 2012 Houston, TX Coordinator Meeting

The Coordinator Meeting will be held at Rice University from 1-5pm. Registration information will be available in January 2012.

February 25, 2012 Houston, TX Spring Roundtable

Our annual Spring Roundtable will be held at Rice University, hotel TBA. Topics are also TBA. Registration information can be found on the website, under activities, in January 2012.

July 22-28, 2012 Austin, TX Summer Workshop

Registration and the plenary sessions will be held at the Renaissance Austin Arboretum hotel.

PYP Categories One, Two, and Three: July 22-25

MYP Categories One and Two: July 22-25

PYP Categories One, Two, and Three, July 25-28

MYP Categories One, Two, and Three: July 25-28

Registration information can be found on the website January 1, 2012.